the Electricity Boards/Power Houses only on full payment in advance w.e.f. 1st October, 1991.

(c) No, Sir.

all in the Prices of Jute

345. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA; Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of raw jute have been falling since the middle of October this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this fall in the prices is attributed to the reduced pro curement by Jute Corporation of India; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to stem the prices of raw jute upto a reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Comparative prices of raw jute are indicated below:—

(Rs, in quintals)

Area	Grade	Rate in mid October			Rate as on 14-11-91		
Assam . .	TD-5	390	..	440	375	..	400
North Bengal .	TD-5	450	..	460	400	..	420
South Bengal .	TD-5	410	..	450	403.50	..	420
Orissa .	W-5	420	..	430	384	..	400

(c) The decline in prices of raw jute can be attributed to surplus availability and lack of demand causefl low level of inventories maintained by jute mills due to their resource constraints. The resource constraints being faced by procurement agencies and traders have also led to reduced purchases which has caused bearish trend in the raw jute market.

(d) The JCI has been advised to tie up arrangements for supply of raw jute to jute mills in the public and private sectors to enable them to increase their market intervention which would help arrest the decline in prices. Government have also announced a quota for the export of 2 lakhs bales of raw jute which would help import a bullish trend to prices. Moreover, the purchase Centres of Jute Corporation of India Ltd. have been advised to purchase all the raw jute that is offered for sale at minimum support prices.

Modernisation of sick Mills

346. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 150 sick textile mills modernised during the last two years or undergoing modernisation this year have shown little sign of improved performance;

(b) if so, what are the names of the the textile mills, which are being modernised with the assistance under the Centres' Textiles Modernisation Fund Scheme state-wise; and